

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

This case originated at NEW YORK, NEW YORK

BS File No.   md

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Report made at: BOSTON, MASS.	Date Made 1/31/49	Period for which made 1/24-31/49	Report made by: FREDERICK M. CONNORS
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Title: JAY DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS with aliases ALGER HISS, ET AL	Character of Case: PERJURY; ESPIONAGE (R); INTERNAL SECURITY (R)
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Synopsis of Facts: Mrs. Richard L. Strunsky, the former Naomi Bartenoff, Somerville, Mass., advises she never saw Philip Reno at any Communist Party camp nor had she met him prior to her residence at Denver, Colorado, in 1943 or 1944. Professor Joseph Esrey Johnson, Williams College, Williamstown, Mass., former associate of Alger Hiss at State Department, advises Hiss was in favor of firm policy toward Russia and he had no reason to question loyalty of Hiss. Immigration and Naturalization Service data on Joseph Juilietti set out. Photograph of Zachary Baranoff sent to New York and New Haven. Investigation to locate 1937 registration of Hiss and Chambers at Peterboro, New Hampshire, unsuccessful to date. Laboratory report reflects that K357 and K358, being letters emanating from Alger Hiss furnished by Professor Richard H. Field and Charles Curtis, (not) typed on machines used to type Q6 through Q69 or Q5.

*cc AAG Campbell  
2-9-49  
FLJ:ard*

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*DEFERRED RECORDING  
L  
2-10-49  
C. H. Jones  
M. J. Jones  
J. J. Jones*

REFERENCE: Bureau file 74-1333  
Report of Special Agent Frederick M. Connors at Boston dated January 24, 1949

*CC. S. S. S.*

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169 85615 1964 this Report:

- ⑤ Bureau 3 Boston
- 3 New York (1 Thomas J. Donegan, Special Assistant to Attorney General, New York)
- 2 Washington (info)

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RECORDED - 137  
INDEXED - 137  
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*Notes - L. J. Jones 2-14-49*

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DETAILS:

Re: INTERVIEW WITH MRS. RICHARD I. STRUNSKY -  
the former NAOMI BARTENOFF  
220 School Street, Somerville, Massachusetts

The report of Special Agent Edwin O. Johnson at Denver, Colorado, dated December 24, 1948, reflects that in a signed statement NORMAN C. PIXLER of Denver, Colorado, stated that sometime during the latter part of 1942 DWIGHT SPENCER introduced EUGENE VERVALEN and himself to a NAOMI BARTENOFF, who was an employee of the Social Security Board. PIXLER said he remembered NAOMI BARTENOFF telling him she had known PHILIP RENO in Washington and had attended a Communist summer camp somewhere in Virginia or Maryland when PHILIP RENO was present in the camp.

Mrs. RICHARD I. STRUNSKY advised Special Agents RICHARD W. DOW and FREDERICK M. CONNORS on January 24, 1949 that her maiden name was NAOMI BARTENOFF. She said she resided in Washington, D. C., from 1935 to 1941 or 1942 as a student at the American University and also as an employee in Government work, principally for the Social Security Board. She said in 1943 or 1944 she worked for a period of approximately six months at Denver, Colorado, for the Social Security Board.

Mrs. STRUNSKY advised she hardly knew PHILIP RENO at all. She said she had never met or heard of him at Washington, D. C. She said she met him through mutual friends at Denver, Colorado, whose names she stated she was unable to recall.

Mrs. STRUNSKY said she had no recollection of ever having attended a Communist party or Marxist camp. She had never received any information which would indicate that PHILIP RENO was a Communist or had ever attended a Communist summer camp. She said that she had never been affiliated with the Communist Party herself and she could not recall making any statement to anyone reflecting that PHILIP RENO had visited such a camp or that she had observed him at a Communist summer camp.

Re: INTERVIEW WITH PROFESSOR JOSEPH ESREY JOHNSON,  
Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts,  
Co-Employee of ALGER HISS at the State Department

A teletype from Washington Field to Boston dated January 18, 1949 requested Boston to interview JOSEPH ESREY JOHNSON, co-employee of ALGER HISS at the State Department.

Special Agent JOSEPH A. SMITH conducted the following investigation on January 25, 1949.

Professor JOSEPH ESREY JOHNSON, Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts, furnished the following information.

JOHNSON first met ALGER HISS sometime between September, 1943 and the following spring. He met HISS in an official capacity. At the time JOHNSON was on the InterAmerican Desk of the Division of American Republics and ALGER HISS was Special Assistant to STANLEY HORNBECK who was then political adviser on Far Eastern Affairs, U. S. State Department.

HISS became the immediate superior of JOHNSON on December 20, 1944. At this time HISS was Deputy Director or Special Assistant to the Director of the Office of Special Political Affairs in the State Department and JOHNSON was Acting Chief of the Division of International Security Affairs.

JOHNSON and HISS were in constant close association just prior to the Yalta Conference in the drafting of the "Proposed Declaration on Liberated Areas." This proposal was subsequently agreed to at that conference with some modifications and published subsequently thereto. JOHNSON said that HISS, at that time, was in favor of a firm policy in the interests of United States security in regard to Russia. HISS was particularly in favor of doing what could be done to promote democracy as it is understood in the United States in these liberated countries, primarily the Balkans.

JOHNSON stated there was a second proposal of a confidential nature which was not adopted at the Yalta Conference in which HISS manifested the same attitude.

On HISS's return from the Conference JOHNSON spoke to him of the proceedings and HISS was in favor of a firm policy toward Russia.

JOHNSON and HISS worked closely together on the United States policy regarding international control of atomic energy in 1946. During this period ALGER HISS was in complete accord with a policy of firmness which would insure no steps be taken which would weaken United States security.

In the spring of 1946 when JOHNSON was a United States representative in the United Nations there was an attempt by the Soviet Union to make part of the UN Charter meaningless through use of the veto. HISS backed JOHNSON consistently and successfully in blocking the attempt.

Mr. JOHNSON stated he was in regular close contact with ALGER HISS until JOHNSON left the State Department in January of 1947. He has since met him occasionally but has never discussed the charges against HISS with him.

JOHNSON stated that in his association with HISS he never had any reason to question HISS's loyalty to the United States. He had never known any associates of HISS or activities of HISS which favored the Soviet Union in any way.

Of his own knowledge Professor JOHNSON never knew of any associations of ALGER HISS with CHAMBERS. He never knew of any documents being illegally abstracted from the State Department for transmission to unauthorized persons, nor did he ever know of any Communist activities or sympathizers in the State Department.

Professor JOHNSON had no knowledge of any activities of ALGER HISS prior to the time he first met him.

JOHNSON had been a visitor at the home of ALGER HISS and met his wife on about three occasions. He had never noticed a typewriter while there. He had never heard politics discussed during the time of his visits and had received no typewritten material from HISS.

JOHNSON was unable to identify any of the other individuals mentioned as subjects in instant case.

Re: INFORMATION CONCERNING ZACHARY BARANOFF

New Haven teletype to Boston dated January 25, 1949 requested Boston to furnish New Haven with photographs and a description of BARANOFF.

Records of the Boston Navy Yard reflect BARANOFF began work at this place in April, 1939 and with the exception of a six-month layoff in 1946 had worked there continuously. No description was available in the personnel records of the Navy Yard.

SAMPSON H. SMITH, criminal investigator, Security Office, Navy Yard, Boston, furnished photographs of ZACHARY BARANOFF to the Boston Office on January 28, 1949. On the same day copies of these photographs were sent to the New York and New Haven offices for their information.

Re: INFORMATION CONCERNING JOSEPH JULIETTI, with aliases

New Haven teletype to the Bureau, New York and Boston dated January 27, 1949 requested Boston to furnish information concerning JOSEPH JULIETTI with aliases JOSEPH GIULIETTI, GUISEPPE GIULIETTI, GUISEPPE GIULIETTI,

JOE JOLIET available in the records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service at Boston, Massachusetts

Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service were made available by Mr. PHILIP CAMARA. Petition number 1500-P-131732, United States District Court at Boston dated April 14, 1931 reflected GIUSEPPE GIULIETTI, 33 Felton Street, Hudson, Massachusetts, was born September 18, 1896 at Mondaveo, Italy. He declared his intention to become a citizen at New London, Connecticut, on June 28, 1924. GIULIETTI married his wife ELENA on November 30, 1922 at New London. He furnished his last foreign address as Mondolfo, Italy.

He arrived at the Port of New York from Havre, France, under the name of GIUSEPPI GIULIETTI on April 29, 1913 on the vessel Hudson. GIULIETTI claimed continuous residence in the United States from that time and residence in the county of Middlesex, State of Massachusetts, from August, 1929.

GIULIETTI furnished as witnesses ABBOTT C. JOSSELYN, machinist, 52 Church Street, Hudson, Massachusetts; and THOMAS R. SARGENT, 19 Gates Avenue, Hudson. Both witnesses claimed to have known GIULIETTI since 1925, being fellow employees of La Pointe Machine Tool Company at New London and Hudson.

GIULIETTI was admitted to citizenship at Boston on July 20, 1931.

Re: RESULTS OF LABORATORY EXAMINATION

The Laboratory examination reflects K357 and K358 are not identical with Q6 through Q69.

By letter dated January 21, 1949 Boston made available to the FBI Laboratory the following letters emanating from ALGER HISS:

1. K357 - a two-page typewritten letter dated December 24, 1946 on Department of State, Washington, stationery, to RICHARD H. FIELD, Professor of Law, Harvard University, Cambridge, and
2. K358 - a typewritten letter on the stationery of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace dated August 31, 1948 to Mr. CHARLES CURTIS, attorney-at-law and a member of the firm of Choate, Hall and Stewart, 30 State Street, Boston.

The Laboratory by letter dated January 25, 1949 advised that it had been concluded that the machines which were used to type K357 and K358 were not used to type Q6 through Q69.

It was further concluded that none of the machines used to type K357 and K358 was used to type Q5. The submitted evidence is being returned to Boston by the Laboratory as soon as photographic copies have been made, at which time they will be returned to the individuals who furnished them.

Re: INVESTIGATION AT PETERBORO, NEW HAMPSHIRE, TO  
LOCATE 1937 GUEST REGISTRATION OF ALGER HISS  
AND WHITTAKER CHAMBERS

ALBERT BATES, the present owner of The Tavern, Main Street, Peterboro, New Hampshire, was reinterviewed on January 25, 1949 at which time he said that the large iron safe which was referred to by Mr. Bishop, a former owner, as having contained the guest registrations of The Tavern had been sold by him just after he took ownership. He said he had cleaned out the safe prior to turning it over to the new owner. Mr. BATES said it possibly may have contained the guest registrations for the year in question but he had no recollection. BATES said that the former owners had accumulated a great number of unnecessary things and he had thrown them away "right and left" upon taking ownership. He said he may have destroyed the old records at that time. Mr. BATES has made a complete search of The Tavern. The only old registrations he had were bound volumes, the majority of which were dated prior to 1900. There is nothing in the bound volumes later than 1921. BATES said that two of the old registration books dating back to about 1880 had been turned over to Major A. Goyette, the owner of the Goyette Museum.

Major A. GOYETTE, owner of the Goyette Museum, Peterboro, New Hampshire, advised that he had been offered the registrations of The Tavern and had selected two or three bound volumes dating back to 1880, which he was keeping at the museum for historical purposes. He had nothing at the museum dated in the 1900's.

A review of the Peterboro Transcript, a weekly newspaper, at the Town Library was made by reporting agent to ascertain if the names of HISS and CHAMBERS had been published as guests of Peterboro during the pertinent period. It was noted that not all visitors to Peterboro had been listed nor did it appear to be the practice of the Peterboro Transcript to list the guests at The Tavern as they were mentioned only infrequently.

A review of the papers for the month of August, 1937 failed to disclose the name of ALGER HISS or WHITTAKER CHAMBERS.

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ADMINISTRATIVE SHEET

The report of Special Agent MAHLON C. COLLIER at Detroit, Michigan, dated January 10, 1949 in instant case, set out an undeveloped lead for Boston to interview GARDNER JACKSON, a newspaper man with home at Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Investigation reflected that JACKSON has a forwarding address of 6 West Kirke Street, Chevy Chase, Maryland, and accordingly, Baltimore was requested to conduct this interview. by teletype dated January 26, 1949, a copy of which was forwarded to Washington and New York.

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UNDEVELOPED LEADS

BOSTON DIVISION

AT HANOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Will interview JOHN SLOAN DICKEY, President of Dartmouth College, on February 7, 1949 as stated in Boston teletype to New York and Washington dated January 28, 1949.

AT PETERBORO, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Will continue investigation to locate 1937 registration of ALGER HISS and WHITTAKER CHAMBERS and will obtain photographs of known tourist homes in the year 1937 in order that they may be submitted to WHITTAKER CHAMBERS. This was requested by New York teletype dated January 27, 1949.

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